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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,642	12/22/2000	Thomas B. Albrecht	026.00041	4973

35876 7590 10/05/2006

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EXAMINER

SCHULTZ, JAMES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1635

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,642

Applicant(s)

ALBRECHT ET AL.

Examiner

J. D. Schultz, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 14 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application/Amendment/Claims

Applicant's response filed 31 July 2006 has been considered. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from the previous office action mailed 4 May 2006 are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either newly applied or are reiterated and are the only rejections and/or objections presently applied to the instant application.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

The arguments presented in the pre-appeal brief conference request filed 31 July 2006 are considered convincing. Prosecution is re-opened, based upon the art cited below in a new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for methods of decreasing viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus comprising administering the calpain inhibitor E64D or Z-Leu-LeuH in cells in vitro, does not reasonably provide enablement for methods of decreasing viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus comprising administering the calpain inhibitor E64D or Z-Leu-LeuH in cells in vitro. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

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The invention is directed to a method of decreasing viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus in cells, or of treating a viral infection comprising administering the calpain inhibitor E64D or Z-Leu-LeuH, wherein the calpain inhibitor increases the levels of p21^{cip1} in the cells whereby viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus is decreased.

The specification as filed does not provide any guidance or examples that would enable a skilled artisan to use the disclosed compounds or methods of using said compounds in vivo, since the prior art is silent on the use of such inhibitors in vivo. Thus, although the specification prophetically considers and discloses general methodologies of using such compounds in vivo, such a disclosure would not be considered enabling since the silence of the prior art and the lack of examples commensurate with the use of such methods in vivo in the specification would render the practice of the instant method in vivo unpredictable. Accordingly, in one of skill in the art would have to resort to trial and error experimentation in order to practice the methods as claimed over their full scope.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Chen et al. (Proceedings of the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, (March,

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1999) Vol. 40, pp. 447-448. print. Meeting Info.: 90th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. April 10-14, 1999.).

The invention is directed to a method of decreasing viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus in cells, comprising administering the calpain inhibitor E64D or Z-Leu-LeuH, wherein the calpain inhibitor increases the levels of p21^{cip1} in the cells whereby viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus is decreased.

Chen et al. teach a method of decreasing viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus in cells, comprising administering the calpain inhibitor E64D or Z-Leu-LeuH, wherein the calpain inhibitor increases the levels of p21^{cip1} in the cells whereby viral replication of a human cytomegalovirus is decreased.

Conclusion

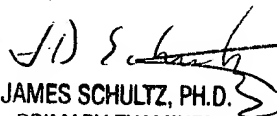
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. D. Schultz, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0763. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Paras can be reached on 571-272-4517. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JDS


JAMES SCHULTZ, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER